

Approved For Release 2000/08/31 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100190024-2

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CTE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/WHSS **SENSITIVE**

SOURCE REF:

CIA/DCI/WH/ZZWH 741213

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.4

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: WH-3

DATE: 13 DECEMBER 1974

SUBJECT: PANAMA NERVOUS ABOUT CUBAN PRESENCE

REF

25X1C

THE TORRIJOS GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE RAPID EXPANSION OF THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN PANAMA SINCE THE TWO COUNTRIES REESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS LAST AUGUST [REDACTED]

25X1C

THE CUBANS HAD SON-

SIDERABLY EXCEEDED THE LIMITS ON THE NUMBER OF DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, WHICH HAD BEEN SET BY PANAMA. THE SOMEWHAT ABRASIVE PERSONALITY OF CUBAN AMBASSADOR JOSE ALFREDO GARCIA BERTRAND ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE IRRITATED THE PANAMANIAN. AN APPARENT INDICATION OF THE TORRIJOS REGIME'S CURRENT DISPLEASURE IS THE DESIGNATION OF ONE NATIONAL GUARD G-2 OFFICER TO BE THE CONTACT POINT FOR THE CUBANS; FORMERLY THEY HAD ALMOST UNLIMITED ACCESS TO THE G-2. [REDACTED]

DATE:

ORIG:

UNIT:

EXT:

25X1C

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

018514 AF43

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED

E 2 IMPDET
CL BY:

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FORM
1-74

USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

25X1C

ALTHOUGH CUBAN

25X1C

MISSION WAS MOVING VERY SLOWLY IN ORDER TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS
BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE CUBANS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN MOVING
TOO FAST FOR TORRIJOS. [REDACTED]

THE CUBANS PLACE A VERY HIGH PRIORITY ON MAINTAINING GOOD
RELATIONS WITH THE TORRIJOS GOVERNMENT AND PROBABLY WOULD BE
UNWILLING TO PULL BACK SOME DIPLOMATS AND TAKE OTHER STEPS TO AVOID
REJECTION. ONE SIGN THAT THE CUBANS MAY HAVE GOTTEN THE MESSAGE
FROM THEIR [REDACTED] DECISION NOT TO PRESS RIGHT NOW FOR AN AIR
AGREEMENT ALLOWING CUBAN AIRLINES TO SERVE PANAMA. E-2 IMPDET.H

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: WH DIV AND NIO

25X1A

DATE: 13 DEC 74

ORIG: [REDACTED] /WHSS

UNIT: CIA OPS CTR

EXT: 9340

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

CLASSIFICATION

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FORM 1-74 **4C** USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS